

DECLASSIFIED

R 92

PARIS, FRANCE 7
20 MONTIVIDIO 5777

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PARIS 01 MONTIVIDIO 5777 171857Z

ACTION AREA-14

INFO CMT-01 ISO-02 LA-05 CIAE-06 DOSE-08 INF-07

NSA-09 PA-01 ASIA-08 BIS-11 SI-12 /P/ 172017Z /53

1. 111858Z DEC 77

RE AMBASSY MONTIVIDIO

TO BOSTON 011000 5440

THRU AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

1. AMEMBASSY MEXICO

2. COMNAV 5440

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTIVIDIO 5777

P.O. 111858Z DEC 77

TAGS: SHUN, RIN, RI, RI, RI

CITE: TITAN, TITAN, CASE OF ILARIO TAVARES

REF: MONTIVIDIO 5441 (NOTAL)

REASON UNCLASSIFIED

1. REASON UNCLASSIFIED. LOCAL PRESS HAS CARRIED RECENT INTERVIEW OF IMPRISONED MEXICAN ILARIO TAVARES BY VISITING BRAZILIAN COLLEAGUE. TAVARES ESCORTED GOU STATEMENTS THAT HE IS RECEIVING HUMANITARIAN TREATMENT AND IN NORMAL HEALTH. DENYING SERIOUS CHARGES, HE LAID BLAME ON MEXICAN SPYBUST CONTACT AND SAID HIS DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE BASIS OF HIS ARREST LAST JULY. TAVARES' STATEMENTS RE TREATMENT AT ODDS WITH INTEREST OF HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS BUT FOLLOW HIS PREFERRED COURSE OF AVOIDING PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GOU.

2. DEC 20-01 GOVERNMENT MONTIVIDIO NEWSPAPERS DEC 13

CARRIED FRONT-PAGE INTERVIEW WITH IMPRISONED

BRAZILIAN MEXICAN ILARIO TAVARES. DURING INTERVIEW, HE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PARIS 01 MONTIVIDIO 5777 171857Z

REASON MAINTAINED HIS INNOCENCE OF ESPIONAGE CHARGES BUT DESCRIBED CONDITIONS OF HIS DETENTION AS "GOOD" AND TREATMENT BY BRITISH AMBASSY AS "CORRECT" AND "BASIC" BUT CONSPIRACY. INTERVIEW WAS OUTCOME OF CONFRONTATION BY GROUP OF BRAZILIAN NEWSMEN WITH URUGUAYAN BOYDIN IN ASUNCION WHERE LATTER WAS ATTENDING MEETING LAST WEEK OF RIVER PLATE BASIN CONVENT. BOYDIN WAS REPORTED LOCALLY AS ENTHUSIASTICALLY REJECTING ALLEGATIONS THAT TAVARES HAD BEEN MISTREATED WHILE IN CUSTODY HERE OF THAT HE WAS IN ILL HEALTH. BOYDIN CHALLENGED BRAZILIAN PRESS IN EFFECT TO "SEE FOR ITSELF". RESULTING INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED BY JOURNAL TO BRASIL CORRESPONDENT ABILIO MACEDO AND COVERED BY SEVERAL LOCAL NEWSMEN.

3. AS REPORTED, TAVARES MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE WAS COMPLETELY UNWITTING, SINCE HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE RECORDING HE WAS CARRYING ON BEHALF OF MEXICAN CULTURAL ATTACHE ABOYO WHEN ARRESTED. LATER, ACCORDING TO TAVARES, "IS FOLLOWING OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE NOT THOSE OF MEXICO."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J. Moore DATE 4/29/80
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

DECLASSIFIED

HARRIS, LAWRENCE T.
77 MONTVIDEO 2713

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

STILL-UNNAMED THIRD PARTY WAS, ACCORDING TO TAVARES,
STRICTLY IN THE INTEREST OF JOURNALISM.

4. HIS HEALTH, ACCORDING TO TAVARES, WAS AFFECTED IN THAT
BEING IMPRISONED IS CAUSING HIM "PITTED DEPRESSION".
THE PRISON FOOD AGGRAVATES A CHRONIC GASTRO-INTESTINAL
CONDITION. HE HAS DIALS BROUGHT IN FROM A NEARBY
RESTAURANT. HE MISSED THE ATTENTION OF HIS BUENOS AIRES
DOCTOR WHO, ON THE BASIS OF PERIODIC TESTS, ADJUSTED HIS
MEDICATION. HE SPECIFICALLY DENIED REPORTS THAT HE WAS
PARALYZED AND ATTRIBUTED THIS TO MISUNDERSTANDING OF HIS
COMMENT TO A "COLLEAGUE WHO VISITED ME RECENTLY" THAT HE
WAS TORMENTED BY A SMARTING SENSATION IN HIS LEFT ARM AND LEG.
HE SPECULATED THAT THIS WAS OF PSYCHOSOMATIC ORIGIN. OF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 27 MONTV 27733 171257Z

CAUSED BY LACK OF EXERCISE.

5. ARTICLES WERE ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOGRAPHS (ONE IN COLOR)
OF TAVARES DURING INTERVIEW SHOWING HIM AS NEARLY DRESSED,
CLEAN-SHAVEN AND WITH NO VISIBLE SIGNS OF MISFEATMENT.

END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

6. COMMENT. WHOLE TENOR OF PERFORMANCE IS, OF COURSE,
AT ODDS WITH PREVIOUS TESTIMONY OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS
REGARDING HIS TREATMENT IN EARLY POST-ARREST PERIOD. HOWEVER,
IT COINCIDES WITH TAVARES' STATEMENTS OF GOOD TREATMENT AS
MADE IN PUBLIC "INTERVIEW" WITH BRAZILIAN CONSUL, CHIEF
LAWYER AND DOCTOR BEFORE LOCAL PRESS AUGUST 27 (MONTVIDEO
2181 (NOTAL)). HE REPORTED BEEN SPECULATION THAT TAVARES'
RELEASE WAS CALCULATED TO INDUCE HIS RELEASE AND WAS CONSISTENT
WITH DEFENSE LAWYERS' INSISTENCE THAT HE WOULD NOT DENOUNCE
GOC IF RELEASED. THIS STILL SEEMS REASONABLE EXPLANATION
FOR DISCREPANCY.

7. AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT OF TAVARES' INTERVIEW WAS
HIS COMMENT, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION REGARDING PLANS FOR
FUTURE, THAT AT TIME OF HIS ARREST HE WAS CONSIDERING AN
OFFER, "FROM A PERSON WHOSE NAME I AM NOT AUTHORIZED TO
REVEAL". "TO FORM PART OF A TEAM WHICH WAS ABOUT TO REORGANIZE
THE PROGRAMMING OF THE VOICE OF AMERICA". THE OFFER, HE
SAID, AROSE OUT OF SOME CRITICISM OF VOA PROGRAMMING HE HAD
MADE WHILE IN BUENOS AIRES. HE DESCRIBED THE OFFER AS QUITE
INTERESTING AND SAID THAT, IF IT WERE STILL OPEN WHEN HE
REAINED HIS LIBERTY, HE WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT. END LIMITED
OFFICIAL USE.

PTZULLO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE 2